

Appl. No. 09/944,774

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composite material comprising:
a substrate, said substrate comprising at least a first layer and a second layer, said first layer having a first surface and a second surface; and
a surfactant applied to the first layer of the substrate;
wherein the surfactant lowers the surface tension of a fluid which contacts the first layer of the substrate, but does not substantially adversely effect the absorption capacity or wicking height of the second layer of the substrate and the second layer of the substrate is acidic or basic and substantially inactivates the surfactant.
2. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the first layer of the substrate is a nonwoven.
3. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the substrate is an absorbent core.
4. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the substrate is a superabsorbent material.
5. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the substrate is comprised of pulp.
6. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the substrate is acidic.
7. (original) The composite material of Claim 1, wherein the second layer of the substrate is basic.
8. (previously presented) The composite material of Claim 6, wherein the second layer has a pH of less than about 6.